AAAS

ADVANCING SCIENCE, SERVING SOCIETY

November 15, 2016

Rush D. Holt

Chief Executive Officer and
Executive Publisher, *Science*

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Democratic Leader
233 Cannon H.O.B.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi

As the Congress returns from the general election to work on final FY 2017 appropriations beyond the current continuing resolution, I write on behalf of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to urge you to complete the strong, bipartisan work already completed in both chambers to develop and move appropriations bills through their respective Appropriations Committees.

The suite of bills already passed would increase federal research & development (R&D) funding by an estimated 2.1% above FY 2016 levels in the House and 3.2% above FY 2016 levels in the Senate, slightly above the rate of inflation, according to an independent analysis by the AAAS R&D Budget and Policy Program. This real growth in federal investment in R&D is crucial fuel for the innovation engines that grow our economy, enhance our safety and security, and expand human knowledge.

AAAS believes that strong and stable funding for research is essential to addressing many of our nation's challenges. And that is why we strongly support the *Innovation: An American Imperative* statement, a set of principles for enhancing America's innovation ecosystem endorsed by more than 500 organizations representing industry, higher-education, and leading science and engineering societies. The principles call for real growth for the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, NASA, DOE Office of Science and other research agencies as a key element of maintaining U.S innovation and competitiveness.

We urge you to complete the work on FY 2017 appropriations and reach final compromise legislation that funds all federal science agencies at robust levels, and avoid further continuing resolutions that impede agencies' efforts to plan ahead and support vital, long-term basic research.

Sincerely,

Rush D. Holt
Chief Executive Officer
Executive Publisher, *Science*

cc: Hal Rogers, Chairman, House Committee on Appropriations
Nita Lowey, Ranking Member, House Committee on Appropriations

American Association for the Advancement of Science
1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005 USA
Tel: 202 326 6640 Fax: 202 371 9526
Email: rholt@aaas.org